

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN PLAZA SIGNOR PICCHI GIVES AN ORATION

Military Band Plays Patriotic Airs, Soldiers' Chorus
Sings Christmas Songs and School Children Chant
Carols—Italian Opera Singer's Solo Splendid
Climax in Spit e of Auto Horns.

PIONEER plaza was filled with Christmas eve crowds. The hotel and office building windows were crowded with spectators and the plaza was a blaze of light and a mass of color. A military band played patriotic airs as the children sang carols from the Herald building balcony in their plaintive sweet, childish voices and the soldiers' chorus sang Christmas songs and the American hymn.

There was a moment of expectant silence, a trumpet call waivered on the night air a star twinkled on the front of the Sheldon, and the band crooned a prelude softly. Then from the balcony of the Sheldon the clearest, richest male voice that has been heard in El Paso since David Blapham sang here, floated over the crowd and filled the open plaza like a benediction. It was Signor Italo Picchi and he sang to the Christmas eve audience as he sang before grand opera audiences in his native Italy and throughout the world.

For a majority of his audience it was the first time Signor Picchi's wonderful voice had been heard in El Paso and his singing of "Holy Night," by Adams, his mother tongue, was the climax of a splendid Christmas eve program. The applause for the famous singer swelled and swelled over the plaza in waves until it amounted to a personal ovation. Signor Picchi acknowledged the enthusiastic reception given his song number with graceful bows.

While the solo was being sung, the star of Bethlehem twinkled against the dark background of the building, making a most effective Christmas picture with the strands of lights, the illuminated tree and the mass of people in the plaza. The full band accompaniment for Signor Picchi's solo was as well rendered as the song. The accompaniment was just loud enough to guide the singer and the brasses did not intrude into the melody, leaving the tree section to carry the air.

Much noise. The splendor of the first municipal Christmas tree celebration and choral concert was in spite of the constantly honking and screaming automobiles, the clang of street car gongs as the cars passed through the plaza and the appearance of an automobile display on a truck, with two siren horns going. The police made every effort to control the autos, but there were too many and they filled the plaza, between the car tracks and the curbing and prevented many strolling on the walks from seeing and hearing the concert.

Four Choral. The four choral numbers, in which the crowd of spectators joined with animation and spirit, were led by Matthew H. Lemen. The first choral was the well known "Advent Fideles" which struck the Christmas note as no other air will do, there then followed the singing of "America," "Silent Night" which was sung soft and low, and "The Star Spangled Banner."

A truly Christmas number was the singing of "A Christmas Story" a beautiful carol from the portfolio of The Herald building by 21 children from the Villa school under the leadership of Miss Laura Mae Fink. The song had all the quality of youth and spontaneity about it that could be associated with young hearts and was sung with an earnestness and fervor that won the applause of the many listening people below. The young men and young girls in this number were recruited

Santa Claus Goes To the Dutch Children Before He Starts For United States

The Hague, Netherlands, Dec. 25.—Santa Claus visits Holland and Belgium each year about three weeks before he goes to the United States, for the children of these two countries honor their patron saint and receive his annual gifts on St. Nicholas day, December 6.

St. Nicholas lived in Holland and was bishop of Amsterdam, where his memory is honored by a fine statue. His traditional liberality to his parishioners led to the custom of hanging up the children's stockings on his feast day so that he might drop a gift therein.

In Holland, Santa Claus is not only the patron saint of children, but also the patron of scholars, prospective brides, sailors and parish clerks. He is also the patron saint of Russia. St. Nicholas's day is celebrated throughout Holland with much the same festivities as those of Thanksgiving or Christmas in America. There are no Christmas trees, but there is a great dinner with an extraordinary variety of good things to eat. Neither plum pudding, pumpkin pie, or turkey is served, but a big asparagus, a variety of meats, and a large quantity of bread and butter.

The children's stockings are hung up on the night of December 5, and are discovered properly filled with suitable presents at dawn of the fifth. Instead of oranges and apples, the Dutch child finds a great variety of those famous brown St. Nicholas cakes rounding out the spaces in the long stockings.

The band men and a special car was sent to the Sixth Infantry camp to convey the bandmen to the Pioneer plaza.

Crowd Appreciative. The crowd showed its appreciation for the choral and special numbers by generous applause. No one grew tired and everyone departed for their homes apparently with the real spirit of Christmas in their hearts.

Reporter Plans Program. To John Regan, police reporter for The Herald, should go the bulk of the credit for El Paso's first municipal Christmas tree celebration. Through his efforts he arranged the program, obtained the consent of Lieut. Col. E. W. Smith for the army band, enlisted chaplains John A. Randolph and John T. Axton in the movement and secured the services of Signor Picchi, through James Graham McNary. The municipal Christmas tree celebration is to be made an annual feature of El Paso civic life and will be even more elaborate next year.

TEXAS CITIES CELEBRATE WITH MUNICIPAL CHRISTMAS TREES

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 25.—One of the most unique Christmas celebrations was in the historic Alamo Plaza here where a giant mountain cedar was planted as a permanent Christmas tree for all the city. Five thousand gifts were distributed to the children of the poor.

Other Texas cities celebrated the holiday in similar fashion. Houston, Fort Worth, Beaumont and Corpus Christi also having municipal trees. In Beaumont, a chorus of 250 voices furnished music around the tree Friday night.

Peace was emphasized in the decorations of Hot Springs's municipal tree, and the songs by a large chorus. A parade with three Santas marked Little Rock's celebration.

Many cities in Oklahoma and Kansas also celebrated the holiday with otherwise would have been forgotten.

SECOND CROP OF PEARS IS
HOUSTON CHRISTMAS NOVELTY

Houston, Tex., Dec. 25.—Forest pears, the second crop of the year, is a unique dish appearing on a number of Christmas tables today in this section. After the August 15 storm, when the trees were stripped of leaves, trees put out new leaves and blossomed again. The fruit is claimed to be of better quality than the first crop.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONS
ARE KEEPING OPEN HOUSE

Following the custom of several years, the Scottish Rite Masons are keeping open house this afternoon at the hall, 429 San Antonio street. Refreshments and cigars are being served to all callers.

CHILDREN ANGERED MEN AND WOMEN GET CHRISTMAS CHEER

County Hospital Patients Gladdened by Tree by the
Woman's Club—Elks and Private Individuals Join
the Woman's Club and Readers of The Herald in
Making Merry Christmas at Rescue Home.

HAPPINESS was written all over the faces of over 100 inmates of the county hospital Friday afternoon when the Woman's club acted as host and presented a Christmas program about a beautifully decorated Christmas tree from which were distributed nuts, candies, oranges and apples were distributed.

Tears were frequent. Old men and old women, out of whose lives the sunshines of hope had long since vanished, rubbed tears away with rough hands from furrowed cheeks; tears that came to the surface at thoughts of past Christmas days when such simple pleasures had not been blotted even by the years of adversity; tears of joy at being remembered; in realization that at least somebody cared. The women of the club said they could every now and then be seen stealthily wiping away a stray drop from a watery eye, a tear of joy that mingled with a full heart, joyous over a duty well done.

The exercises were held at 4 o'clock in the men's ward of the hospital and all but about 15—were grouped about the tree. The women of the club were sitting up on their little white beds, unable to be dressed for the exercise, but their eyes were sparkling. Several children were among the number and their happiness was evident. A little Mexican boy in pajamas, sitting on his bed near the tree, shed tears as he received with a grateful smile a nut, an orange and an apple. An old man shouted "Amen" when Mrs. S. H. Sutherland, president of the club, said she would give to the children what had changed in the administration of the county hospital, so that it is now possible for every inmate to be visited and to receive humane attention.

Patients Shed Tears. An old man who hobbled in on a pair of crutches, his frame twisted with age and rheumatism, shed tears during the presentation of one of the songs. A younger man, suffering with tuberculosis, wept audibly during the singing of "Holy Night."

Every child in the ward, and the women who made it possible to give these people without friends or family, declared it was one of the happiest evenings of their lives. They vowed that no future Christmas would be so happy as this one, and that they would be without a tree and presents at the hospital.

The tree was decorated in electric light, with the presents hanging from all the limbs. Mrs. R. H. Stevens furnished the decorations and Mrs. W. C. Axton, who supervised the work of preparing the tree.

Beneath the tree and on tables on each side were nuts, candies, oranges and apples.

All Received Presents. Every patient in the ward—those able to stand the tree and those unable to leave their beds—received a present. Besides the men all received nuts, candies, oranges and apples.

Dr. H. H. Faint, house physician, staff of the hospital, received the guests and looked after the seating of the patients where they could hear the exercises and sing. The exercises were held under the direction of Mrs. Parvin White.

Mrs. C. O. Rucker followed with a recitation, "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful." The exercises were held under the direction of Mrs. Parvin White.

Object of Tree. Mrs. S. H. Sutherland, president of the club, told of the purpose of the visit. "I have the honor of speaking to you on behalf of the Woman's club. This beautiful tree from the mountains of New Mexico bears fruit appropriate to the season, with its oranges, candies, nuts and other refreshments, which may, we hope, in the hours to come, remind you of this hour and bring warmth and comfort to you. It bears another fruit not visible to the eye, but of joy not only to the recipient but much joy to the giver. This is the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of service and good will. One man and wife who have worked hard and week to week to get the hearts of the unfortunate, told me they had not bought a thing for anyone, but had been working for the sick and the children and said they, 'It's the happiest Christmas we have ever spent.' These women of the Civic Committee, who have been the donors of this beautiful tree, have been contributing to the hospital, and the Christmas tree is a symbol of the good will and service which they have been giving to the community."

More Songs and a Recitation. Gounod's Christmas Carol followed and Mrs. Rucker recited another appropriate selection which pleased the patients immensely.

Miss Virginia Burk then sang "Noel," by Adams, and "Oh Holy Night," by the Lyric club.

The tree was given under the auspices of the civic committee of the Woman's club, with the cooperation of the entire club. Mrs. W. C. Axton, club chairman, and Mrs. Horace Axton, club secretary, were in charge of the arrangements and worked hard for several weeks completing arrangements for the tree, the gifts, the decorations and the distribution. Other members of this committee are Mrs. Nell Hale, Mrs. R. B. Sutherland, Mrs. L. Mundy, Mrs. T. M. Waller, and Mrs. G. A. Martin. Numerous other members of the club lent assistance in the work.

The Singers. The members of the Women's Lyric Club, who participated in the singing were: Mrs. Zula R. Bowles, Miss Virginia Burk, Mrs. Fred C. Emery, Mrs. Paul Heer, Mrs. Frank M. Lyman, Miss Irene Davis, Mrs. Carl Lee Smith, Mrs. R. P. Mosson, Miss Anna Axton, Mrs. T. M. Greer, Miss Althea Axton, Mrs. Mae Priddy, Mrs. D. B. Booth, Miss Constance Pateman, Mrs. Ray K. Smith, Mrs. Chas. Howard was organist, and Mrs. Witte, director.

SPENDS CHRISTMAS MORNING
PICKING SHOT FROM ARM

While on a professional call Friday in an automobile, Dr. W. B. Grutman, veterinarian of the Eighth cavalry, received a charge of buckshot from a hunter's gun in his arm.

The shooting occurred near the Tulley ranch, east of Canutillo, and the injury sustained by the doctor was painful but not serious. With Dr. Grutman was Dr. R. A. Higgins. The army veterinarian was driven in an automobile to the hospital at Fort Bliss, where the shot was picked from his arm on Christmas morning.

The automobile was damaged by the shot. The shooting, it is said, was accidental and came from the direction of a hunting party.

Stole A Kewpie and Teddy Bear; Released and Takes Them To "Kids"

A Mexican laborer, Rafael Solis, was arrested Friday afternoon by a police officer on the charge of theft of two "Teddy bears" and two small "Kewpie" dolls from the Kress store. The value of the articles was 50 cents and Solis was charged with theft under \$50 and placed under a \$50 bond. At Seventh and Oregon streets, Solis has a wife and two little children.

When the nature of his offense was brought to the attention of Capt. L. L. Hall, Christmas morning, he agreed to release the man if someone would buy the toys. The toys were immediately bought by a police reporter and Solis was given the four toys and told to go home and spend Christmas with his family.

Mexican Mob of Boys Break Windows; Gel Candy

A miniature Mexican mob was seen in action, Christmas morning, at the store of the Buquer Motor Car company on Stanton street. The company had announced that it would give away 10,000 bags of candy, through which were scattered \$50 in nickels and dimes, and by 6 o'clock on Saturday morning, the youngsters, chiefly Mexicans, began to line up in front of the place. It was chilly, so the youngsters were thrown through the windows, breaking five panes of glass. An effort was made to line up the youngsters and pass out the candy as they passed through the saleroom, but this was not fast enough for them and they rushed the place, taking everything they could lay their hands on and the scene was a chaotic one. The police were called and two mounted men succeeded in clearing the alley and a scramble for nickels and dimes in the streets followed. The other youngsters out of the saleroom.

The place was finally cleared at 8:45 o'clock and stock of the saleroom showed a loss of about \$50 while "Mutt," the bull terrier mascot of the place, carried numerous scars for the boys had taken a violent dislike to his efforts to drive them from the saleroom.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ARE SUNG IN THE Y. W. C. A. ROOMS

Christmas carols were sung during the noon hour Friday at the downtown rooms of the Young Women's Christian association. Mrs. H. H. Sutherland, president, and Mrs. Sarah Hoff sang a duet. Miss Margaret Young played a group of piano solos. Miss Virginia Burk sang "Noel" and "Oh Holy Night" with Mrs. Charles Howard playing her accompaniment. A chorus of the older girls sang "When Joseph Went a-Walking," with Miss Georgina Martin singing solo parts and Mrs. Sutherland playing the piano accompaniment. Miss Anna Axton sang "Away in a Manger," with Mrs. H. H. Sutherland playing her accompaniment. "Holy Night" was sung by a quartet composed of Miss Della Rosenstien, Miss Julia Caldwell, Miss Margaretta Pratt and Miss Anna Axton. Mrs. George Brunner played the piano accompaniment. The carols were sung in the Y. W. C. A. rooms, which were decorated with Christmas trees and lights.

FRICK PAYS BANK LOSSES OF 4000 LITTLE CHILDREN

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 25.—As his Christmas gift, H. C. Frick, coal magnate, has announced that he will pay in full all the accounts of the 4,000 school children whose savings are tied up in the closed Pittsburg Bank for Savings.

The children's deposits amount to \$167,148.58.

Our assortment of Ivory Brushes, Combs, and Mirrors is very complete. Let us show you. Putter Drug Co. Phone 354-575. 161 S. El Paso St.—Adv.

\$100 For Everybody

Easy Way to Secure a \$100 Bank Account Under Interesting New Savings Plan.

In order to promote thrift and encourage the habit of systematic saving, the Rio Grande Valley Bank & Trust Co. of this city is issuing \$100 Savings Certificates. These are sold on the easy payment plan of \$2 a week for 12 weeks and this investment will MAKE THE FIRST PAYMENT FOR YOU.

Subsequent weekly payments of \$2 cash for 48 weeks places you in possession of a paid-up savings certificate for \$100, that is payable on demand at this bank for its face value at any time. If you so choose, this savings certificate at maturity will be signed by one of the Bank's officers and become a Term Savings Certificate earning 4 per cent interest.

Under this popular new plan saving becomes a pleasure, not a task. Each weekly payment places you nearer your goal—ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

This systematic saving plan bears the endorsement of leading business men throughout the country—men who have achieved success by learning early in life the necessity for thrift.

Remember, there is only one safe, sure way to save—and that is to obligate yourself to do so. You are traveling the road to financial independence when you adopt some plan that necessitates your laying by a definite amount each week.

Don't just wish for money—drop into the Rio Grande Valley Bank & Trust Co. Monday or Tuesday and get these savings certificates and before you know it you will have a fat bank account.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY BANK & TRUST CO.

Our Semi-Annual Clearance Sale

On all Fall and Winter Suits begins Monday
Morning, December 27th.

\$100.00

Gives you choice of any Fall and Winter Suit that sold regularly at \$150.00.

These come in all the newest patterns and fabrics for men and young men—sizes 34 to 46.

\$15.00

Takes any of our higher grade suits that sold formerly at

\$22.50, \$25, \$27.50 and \$30

Suits at these prices are to be discontinued and we have put the price at \$15 for quick clearance.

VICTOR HAT & CLOTHING CO.

San Antonio and Mesa Avenue.

A Merry Christmas

Happy Days,
Peaceful Nights,
Electric Lights

El Paso Electric Railway Co.